



AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB, Texas



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. 2 May 06

AF says bird strike caused training jet to crash

Web Posted: 05/02/2006 12:00 AM CDT

Sig Christenson
Express-News Military Writer

A \$3.9 million T-38C training jet went down near Brackettville late last year after a black vulture struck the cockpit, the Air Force said Monday.

The twin-engine Talon from Laughlin AFB was on a training flight Dec. 13 when the bird struck the Plexiglas canopy. The plane was flying at an altitude of 1,057 feet and was 5 miles east of Brackettville.

"When the bird struck the canopy, it apparently caused tremendous drag on the airplane," said Dave Smith, a spokesman for the Air Education and Training Command at Randolph AFB.

The incident was one of two crashes in the command last year. An HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter based at Kirtland AFB, in Albuquerque, N.M., went down May 11, killing a flight engineer and slightly injuring the pilot and co-pilot.

The last fatal T-38 crash was in 2003, when one of the planes ran off a runway at Randolph and struck part of a barrier stanchion because of a flat tire.

In the latest incident, instructor pilot Maj. Marc A. Montgomery took control of the plane after the bird strike and began a climbing turn toward Laughlin AFB, which is in Del Rio. He reached 1,700 feet, accident investigators said, when a sudden increase in drag led Montgomery to think the plane had lost its power.

The T-38 plummeted 1,200 feet as Montgomery tried to analyze the problem. At 500 feet and the plane in a stall, Montgomery ordered his student pilot, 2nd Lt. Jonathan Ballard, to bail out.

Both safely ejected and were rushed to a hospital. Ballard was treated and released; Montgomery suffered burns and broken bones. The supersonic jet was destroyed.

"The investigators said the chaotic situation aboard the T-38 following the bird strike reduced the (instructor's) ability to calmly and accurately complete his analysis of the entire situation and take appropriate corrective measures; thus committing the two pilots to a low-altitude ejection," the accident report stated.

Investigators found that the pilots weren't at fault.

Ballard has graduated from flight training, and Montgomery has returned to his duties at Laughlin.

San Antonio Express News
PAGE: Internet
POSTED: 2 May 06



AETC News Clips

Keesler AFB, Miss.



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **2 May-06**

Aerospace World

By Breanne Wagner , Associate Editor

Keesler Up To Speed

Training at Keesler AFB, Miss., is back up to speed months ahead of expectations, the Air Force reported in March.

Keesler took \$950 million worth of damage from Hurricane Katrina last August, but the base's training output is expected to be higher than 2004's levels, according to Maj. Gen. William T. Lord.

Lord is director of information services and integration for the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Warfighting Integration and Chief Information Officer at the Pentagon. Until November 2005, he was commander of the 81st Training Wing at Keesler. Brig. Gen. Paul F. Capasso now serves as commander of the 81st.

Speaking with reporters at the Pentagon in March, Lord said Keesler's training facilities survived the hurricane intact, but training was stopped because some key instructors and many students had been evacuated.

Training resumed just three weeks after the hurricane, rather than the six months projected, when the extent of the damage was more fully understood and repairs could be tackled with full force.

About 95 percent of the base suffered structural damage ranging from uprooted trees to complete destruction of buildings.

The base was quickly repaired with help from the 832rd RED HORSE, the 5th Combat Communications Group, the 97th Air Expeditionary Group, the 615th Contingency Response Wing, Combat Camera, and 83rd Communications Squadron mobile satellite communications teams called Hammer ACE.

"All of the industrial area has now been, at least temporarily, fixed, so that it's useful," noted Lord.

The primary problem Keesler now faces is a shortage of on-base housing, because all the housing projects that were in the works before the storm were delayed, Lord said. Many of the new base houses were flooded with nine feet of water, completely destroying them. Under a new housing plan at Keesler, 1,200 military homes will be constructed and 800 privatized within 10 years.

Aerospace World
PAGE:
DATE: 2 May-06



AETC News Clips

Keesler AFB, Miss.



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **2 May-06**

Other plans for Keesler's full reconstruction include building a seawall behind the hospital and waterproofing its basement, which was flooded during Katrina, causing millions of dollars in damage.

Lord said he is using the disaster response skills he learned at Keesler to teach wing commanders crisis preparation. He teaches a two-hour course on "preparation and leadership during a crisis" at every wing commander seminar held at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Lord was invited to teach the course by Air University.

Lt. Gen. John F. Regni, superintendent of the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., also has asked Lord to teach a similar course for the cadets to prepare them for their future leadership roles.